

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 079914
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH, JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA - MR. GLEYSTEN
S/S-O - MR. CASTRODALE
-----017427 290148Z /65
O 290118Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079914

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO

REFS: (A) SEOUL 2385, (B) STATE 77059, (C) SEOUL 2515.

1. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK KUN-WOO CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT MARCH 28 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF ROKG'S INFORMAL EXPLORATION OF MEANS FOR ETHICS COMMITTEE TO HAVE ACCESS TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO. HE HAD RECEIVED PHONE CALL PREVIOUS EVENING FROM AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK IN SEOUL.

2. PARK STATED SERIOUS EFFORT IS BEING MADE IN SEOUL TO FIND MEANS CONSISTENT WITH ROKG SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE TO PLACE DONG-JO IN COMMUNICATION WITH ETHICS COMMITTEE. KIM YONG-SHIK HAS TALKED TO DONG-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 079914

JO AND IS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHERS BEFORE DISCUSSING MATTER FOR SECOND TIME WITH PRESIDENT PARK APRIL 1 JUST BEFORE LEAVING SEOUL TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. BOTH ON MARCH 27 AND 28 PARK HAS HIGHLIGHTED SEOUL CONCERN OVER CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE MARCH 27 WHICH TOUCHED ON POSSIBLE COMPROMISE WITH CONGRESS AND

POTENTIAL INITIATIVES BY CONGRESSMEN TO WRITE LETTER TO ROKG. IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSY FROM SEOUL TO EXPRESS CONCERN, AMBASSADOR KIM REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED ON TELEPHONE THAT ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES AT THIS TIME WOULD UNDERCUT HIS EFFORTS FOR "PRIVATE" AND "VOLUNTARY" ARRANGEMENTS. YOU HAVE RECEIVED MAJOR SEGMENTS OF CSM ARTICLE IN WIRELESS FILE.

4. WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO PARK OUR UNDERSTANDING OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT DEPARTMENT IS NOT ENCOURAGING EITHER PUBLICITY OR NEW CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES.

5. INFORMALLY WE HAVE LEARNED THAT CONGRESSMAN ERTEL AND OTHERS ARE CONSIDERING SENDING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK ALONG LINES CSM ARTICLE INDICATED. MOTIVATION APPEARS TO BE RECOGNITION THAT "ERTEL RESOLUTION" EARLIER INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES IS PERHAPS TOO STRONG AND HAS MET WITH DISFAVOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES. LETTER WOULD BE DESIGNED TO STATE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM IN MUCH MORE DIPLOMATIC AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL MANNER. IF QUESTIONED BY ROKG, YOU MAY NOTE THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF POSSIBLE LETTER AS NOTED ABOVE, BUT THAT DEPARTMENT IS NOT ASSOCIATED IN ANY WAY WITH THIS IDEA. YOU MAY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT THE PROPOSED LETTER WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 079914

SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POSITIVE FROM STANDPOINT OF ROK-US RELATIONS THAN THREATENING RESOLUTION INTRODUCED EARLIER INTO THE CONGRESS. FYI. WE ARE TRYING TO DISCOURAGE DESPATCH OF CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS. END FYI.

6. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH THIS WEEK WITH BOTH PETER WHITE AND ROGER SWILLINGER TO INFORM THEM THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN IN SEOUL TO FINDING A WAY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO COMMITTEE NEEDS WITHOUT INFRINGING ROKG SOVEREIGNTY. BOTH FOUND THIS ENCOURAGING. SWILLINGER CONFIRMED THAT SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE STILL HAS MADE NO DETERMINATION THAT IT WOULD NOT NEED TO SEEK ACCESS TO FURTHER KOREAN FIGURES BEYOND KIM DONG-JO, BUT HE INDICATED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH SUCH A CONCLUSION WHEN THE ISSUE IS CLEARLY JOINED.

7. WHITE WAS MOST GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT ROKG ENCOURAGED TONGSUN PARK NOT TO RETURN TO SEOUL PRIOR TO PUBLIC HEARINGS BY HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE. WHITE INDICATED THEY HAD BEEN VERY CONCERNED THAT TSP MIGHT DEPART AND CAUSE DELAY OR WORSE IN PUBLIC HEARINGS. COUNSELOR PARK INFORMS US THAT MEETING BETWEEN TSP AND

CONSUL GENERAL HAN (IN WHICH HAN CONVEYED ROKG URGING THAT TSP REMAIN HERE UNTIL ETHICS PUBLIC HEARINGS COMPLETED) WAS VERY STORMY. TONGSUN PARK RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO STAY ON BUT NOT WITHOUT STRONG REJOINDERS. JAWORSKI HAS NOW ANNOUNCED THAT TONGSUN PARK WILL APPEAR IN OPEN HEARINGS APRIL 3, 4, AND 5.

8. SUBSEQUENT TO WRITING ABOVE WE HAVE JUST SEEN SEOUL 2519 EXPRESSING ROKG CONCERN AT POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS. BELIEVE PARAGRAPH FIVE ABOVE IS RESPONSIVE. COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE079914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH, JR.:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840163-0204, N780004-0065
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780313/aaaaaknf.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6c735ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 SEOUL 2385, 78 STATE 77059, 78 SEOUL 2515
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3168595
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, (KIM DONG-JO)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6c735ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014